

AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1-14. (Canceled).
15. (Previously Presented) A bituminous binder composition comprising:
 - (a) 60 - 99.75 wt.% bitumen;
 - (b) 0.05 - 5.0 wt.% of an elastomer;
 - (c) 0.1 - 30.0 wt.% of a mono-alkyl ester of a vegetable oil or an animal oil; and
 - (d) 0.1 - 5.0 wt.% of an amide additive;each wt.% based on the total weight of the bituminous binder composition.
16. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the bitumen is a paraffinic or a naphtenic bitumen with an average penetration of 10 to 350×10^{-1} mm.
17. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the elastomer is a polymer or a resin comprising two adjacent butadiene units.
18. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the elastomer is a polybutadiene, a butadiene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene triblock terpolymer, a isoprene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-isoprene-styrene triblock terpolymer, or a combination thereof.
19. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 17, wherein the elastomer is a polybutadiene, a butadiene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene triblock terpolymer, a isoprene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-isoprene-styrene triblock terpolymer, or a combination thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the composition comprises 0.1 to 4.5 wt.% of the elastomer, based on the total weight of the bituminous binder composition.
21. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the mono-alkyl ester a vegetable or an animal oil comprises a C₁-C₄ alkyl ester of an unsaturated fatty acid.
22. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 21, wherein the mono-alkyl ester is a rapeseed methylmonoester, a sunflower methyl monoester, an isomerised sunflower methyl monoester, or a mixture thereof.
23. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the bituminous binder composition comprises 0.3 to 25.0 wt.% of the mono-alkyl ester of a vegetable or an animal oil, based on the total weight of the bituminous binder composition.
24. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 15, wherein the bituminous binder composition further comprises a curing agent.
25. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 20, wherein the bituminous binder composition further comprises a curing agent.
26. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 23, wherein the bituminous binder composition further comprises a curing agent.
27. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 24, wherein the curing agent is a sulfur-donor compound.
28. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 25, wherein the curing agent is a sulfur-donor compound.

29. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 26, wherein the curing agent is a sulfur-donor compound.
30. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 24 comprising 0.01 to 1.0 wt.% of the curing agent, based on the total weight of the composition.
31. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 25 comprising 0.01 to 1.0 wt.% of the curing agent, based on the total weight of the composition.
32. (Previously Presented) The bituminous binder composition according to claim 26 comprising 0.01 to 1.0 wt.% of the curing agent, based on the total weight of the composition.
33. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a bituminous binder composition comprising the steps of:
 - (i) mixing an elastomer and a mono-alkyl ester of a vegetable or animal oil at a temperature of 50° to 150°C;
 - (ii) adding at least a part of the mixture as obtained in step (i) to bitumen, the bitumen having been preheated to a temperature in the range of 100 °C to 210 °C;
 - (iii) adding an amide additive to the mixture as obtained in step (ii); and
 - (iv) optionally adding a curing agent to mixture as obtained in step (iii).
34. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the bitumen is a paraffinic or a naphtenic bitumen with an average penetration of 10 to 350×10^{-1} mm.
35. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the elastomer is a polymer or a resin comprising two adjacent butadiene units.

36. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the elastomer is a polybutadiene, a butadiene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene triblock terpolymer, a isoprene-styrene diblock copolymer or, styrene-isoprene-styrene triblock terpolymer, or a combination thereof.
37. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 35, wherein the elastomer is a polybutadiene, a butadiene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-butadiene-styrene triblock terpolymer, a isoprene-styrene diblock copolymer, a styrene-isoprene-styrene triblock terpolymer, or a combination thereof.
38. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the composition comprises 0.1 to 4.5 wt.% of the elastomer, based on the total weight of the bituminous binder composition.
39. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the mono-alkyl ester of a vegetable or an animal oil comprises a C₁-C₄ alkyl ester of an unsaturated fatty acid.
40. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 39, wherein the mono-alkyl ester is a rapeseed methylmonoester, a sunflower methyl monoester, an isomerised sunflower methyl monoester, or a mixture thereof.
41. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the bituminous binder composition comprises 0.3 to 25.0 wt.% of the mono-alkyl ester of a vegetable or an animal oil, based on the total weight of the bituminous binder composition.
42. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the bituminous binder composition further comprises a curing agent.
43. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 38, wherein the bituminous binder composition further comprises a curing agent.

44. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 41, wherein the bituminous binder composition further comprises a curing agent.
45. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 42, wherein the curing agent is a sulfur-donor compound.
46. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 43, wherein the curing agent is a sulfur-donor compound.
47. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 44, wherein the curing agent is a sulfur-donor compound.
48. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 42, wherein the bituminous binder composition comprises 0.01 to 1.0 wt.% of the curing agent, based on the total weight of the composition.
49. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 43, wherein the bituminous binder composition comprises 0.01 to 1.0 wt.% of the curing agent, based on the total weight of the composition.
50. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 44, wherein the bituminous binder composition comprises 0.01 to 1.0 wt.% of the curing agent, based on the total weight of the composition.
51. (Previously Presented) A process for dressing a surface comprising coating the surface with a bituminous binder composition comprising bitumen, elastomer, mono-alkyl ester of a vegetable oil or an animal oil, and an amide additive.
52. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 51, wherein the surface is selected from the group consisting of roads and joints.